

A Faith to Live By

An Independent Study of the
Westminster Confession of Faith

How to use this study guide effectively each week:

1. **Pray** that the Holy Spirit would use the week's material to increase your knowledge of God and His Word. (see Psalm 119:1-8)
2. **Read the Confession of Faith** (WCF) sections listed. Read the proof texts too.
3. **Memorize the Scripture** verse(s) listed.
(Sometimes they may not line up with the particular WCF sections, but they all build to give good memory references for the overall chapter.)
4. **Work through the discussion questions.**
It is best to write down your answers.
The questions may sometimes be difficult. Think, pray, ponder. Don't worry if you don't have answers to everything! We will discuss at our monthly meeting.
Our main goal is thoughtfulness on the matters of God's Word, not getting everything right or clear the first time through.
5. **Come to the monthly discussion** prepared to interact with the material.

May

Week 1 (5/8) Creation

- Read: WCF 6.1-2

- Memorize: Genesis 6:5

The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

- Study questions:

Section 1

1. Who were our first parents? What was the command God gave them?

2. What is sin? (look at Larger Catechism 24)

3. Was there anything intrinsically evil in the fruit of the tree?

4. Was God surprised by their sin? Explain.

Section 2

5. What penalties were suffered by Adam and Eve?

Week 2 (5/15)

- Read: WCF 6.3-4

- Memorize: Romans 7:18-19

For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing.

- Study questions:

Section 3

1. Why and how did their sin affect the nature of all mankind? Is anyone excluded?

Section 4

2. What is the relationship between “original corruption” and “actual transgressions”?

3. What is the relationship of a sinner to “good”?

4. How does understanding the severity of sin prepare us to understand the gospel?

Week 3 (5/22)

- Read: WCF 6.5-6

- Memorize: 2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

- Study questions:

Section 5

1. How might we respond to a Christian who claims not to sin? What Scriptures might we point to?

2. Instead of expecting perfection from believers, what should we expect?

Section 6

3. What is meant by spiritual miseries, temporal miseries, and eternal miseries?

Week 4 (5/29)

- No reading this week.
- Catch up or work ahead on reading.
- Review memorization!
- For extra reading:
 - “Are There Degrees of Sin?” by R.C. Sproul at [ligonier.org \(https://www.ligonier.org/learn/articles/are-there-degrees-sin\)](https://www.ligonier.org/learn/articles/are-there-degrees-sin)
 - “Sin Is Cosmic Treason” by R.C. Sproul at [ligonier.org \(https://www.ligonier.org/posts/sin-cosmic-treason\)](https://www.ligonier.org/posts/sin-cosmic-treason)
 - “What Ever Happened to Sin?” by Michael Horton at [wscal.edu \(https://wscal.edu/resource-center/what-ever-happened-to-sin\)](https://wscal.edu/resource-center/what-ever-happened-to-sin)

Monthly Discussion: Thursday, June 2 @ 7:00pm